



Wilmington Axstane Probud Club

NEWSLETTER - July 2024

Our luncheon this month has been replaced by the Chairman's Summer Lunch. We are offering a Buffet which will include Gammon, Chicken, Ham etc. We also have a speaker, Alan Haines, who will entertain us with "The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show". The theme for the lunch is "The Wild West".

Chairman's Ramblings

I am sorry that I was unable to be with you at the June Lunch Meeting. As some of you know, Jane and I were in Kenya at the time. We had a fabulous trip, some spent at the Voyager Beach Hotel in Mombassa, and five days/four nights on safari. We covered three different game parks, stayed at three different lodges, and saw all of the "Big Five" except the Rhino. This was not unexpected, as most of the remaining animals are located further up country.

We visited an authentic Masai village to see how the people try to maintain their way of life, tending their cattle. I was appointed an "Honorary Big Chief Papa" which, apparently, entitles me to at least one more wife. I remarked that, as Jane still works, it might be nice to have another wife to look after me during the day. I am pleased to report that nothing was broken, and they tell me the bruises will fade with time.

At the end of the holiday, we had a "wash-up" meeting with our lovely holiday rep, Peris. I cannot recall how the subject came up, but during a group discussion on Kenyan life I mentioned my support for the Mustard Seed Project and the Miche Bora school. In one of those "small world moments" that come up from time to time, Peris told me that she lives in the same area as the school. She spoke very highly of the work done by the charity's founder, Rita Fowler, whom she had met, and how every penny raised goes directly to the benefit of the school and its pupils. In a further twist of fate, Rita stays at the Voyager Beach when she visits Kenya. You just could not make it up!

Now, a word about my other charity – Breast Cancer Kent. As some of you know, we lost Jane's "Sister From Another Mister", Sarah, two years ago. Sarah was diagnosed with breast cancer and was treated in the Oncology Centre at Maidstone Hospital. We all thought she had beaten it when she "rang the bell" after her last treatment but, unfortunately, the cancer returned a year or so later with a vengeance. Sarah passed at the age of 38, leaving her husband, and three children under 10.

Continued—>

Ramblings Continued

Breast Cancer Kent is devoted to raising funds to support cancer treatment and research in Kent, particularly at Maidstone Hospital. We chose this charity because of the work they do to try to prevent more cases like Sarah's, and in her dear memory.

On a brighter note, next year's Chairman's Dinner will be held on Friday 4th April. The Committee decided to look into a change of venue from Dartford Football Club, and one or two options are being explored. More to come on this later in the year, but please save the date in your diaries.

Also, preparations for the Wilmington Fete are well underway. This year we will be running two events - our famous "Barrow of Booze" raffle, and a new competition involving a washing line and some clothes pegs. If you want to know more, then you will have to come along and join us on Monday 26th August to find out!

Finally, I was delighted to see that over 50 people have booked in for the Chairman's Summer Lunch next Thursday (25th July). The theme is "The Wild West", and I am hoping to see plenty of cowboys and cowgirls there. Andrew has arranged a guest speaker to take us on a trip down memory lane, so we hope it will be a very enjoyable occasion. See you then!

Keith



Social Committee Report

Chairman's Summer Lunch: -

Thursday, 25 July 2024 at Whiteoak 58 booked in. See you there and don't forget "Wild West Dress"

Outings: -

RHS Wisley Wednesday, 7 August 2024 - 29 are already booked in and final details will be circulated soon. **We still have places available so If you fancy this let Colin know urgently.**

Wilmington Fete -

Monday, 26 August 2024 we will be on the "The Common". Please come and visit our stall and members will receive complimentary refreshments.

Social Events in the Autumn: -

Quiz Night Friday, 8 November 2024 - more information later.

Paddy Cavanagh has arranged and booked 20 tickets to visit to "The Ceremony of the Keys" at the Tower of London on 4th December 2024. No charge for tickets but purchase of raffle tickets is required! More information later.

Ambassador Tickets offer special rates for Probus Clubs attending matinees. we are looking at "Les Misérables, £45. Members would make their own arrangements to get there and back. More details soon.

Christmas Dinner, Monday, 2 December 2024 - more information later.

Colin/Phil

Darwin Award Winners 2007 (honouring the least evolved among us)

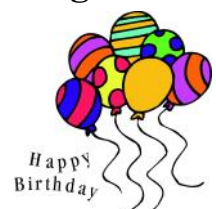
A Texas teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit!

This was originally published in the 27th March 2008 Newsletter. The Darwin Award winners eliminate themselves in an extraordinarily idiotic manner, thereby improving our species' chances of long-term survival.

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in July and August

Kevin Pronger and Clive Freeland



Walks Report

Andrew is leading the next walk on Wednesday 14 August and it will be from the Visitor Centre in Lullingstone Country Park, Castle Road, Eynsford, DA4 0JF. The walk will commence at 10.30 am but for those who would like to have a coffee beforehand the Cafe at the Visitor Centre is open from 10.00 am. Toilets are also available. Parking will cost you £2.50, payable in cash, by card or via one of the usual parking apps (Ringo, etc).

The exact route for the walk will be decided on the day, depending on those who are walking and the conditions underfoot. There are various routes we can take, but the one I have in mind will follow the river Darent to Eynsford Castle, skirt around the golf course and return to the Visitor Centre with views over the lavender fields of Castle Farm. Inevitably there are some slopes involved, but nothing that our more regular walkers won't be used to! The routes we can use will not exceed our normal distance of 2.5 - 3.0 miles (promise!).

Lunch will be at 12.30 pm at The Malt Shovel in Eynsford, which we have been to a number of times before. The address of the pub is Station Rd, Eynsford, DA4 0ER with the car park on the opposite side of the road. We will need to pre-book our meals (menus are available to view on their website) and I need to have your choices by 2.00 pm on Friday 9 August if you are coming to lunch. I will have menus to view at the Chairman's Summer Lunch.

It would also be helpful to know if you intend walking, so that we don't leave anyone behind. Hopefully it won't be just Fran and me doing the walking!

Andrew

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		468
General Funds		717
Pending Payment:		2462
Contingency Fund		1817
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		5464

The charity funds are mainly those from your donations and raffle monies for the Wilmington Fair event. General funds remain at a healthy level and funds pending payment include those for the Summer Lunch (£1512) and the RHS Wisley Outing (£950).

Derek

Some information from Ian Armitt

Where did Axstane come from in the Club's name?

Axstane was a hundred* in the county of Kent. The Hundred of Axstane lay south-east of Dartford and Wilmington Hundred. It is called Achestan in Domesday Book, but by the reign of Edward I it was called Axstane.

Its name has been interpreted as referring to an oak bearing stony land, or alternatively a reference to the personal name Acca.

In the time of Edward I, the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury were then its lords paramount.

In the 20th year of the reign of Edward III (1347), just before the Black Death, this hundred answered for a total of 14.725 knights' fees.

The hundred included the parishes of Ash, Darenth, Eynsford, Farningham, Fawkham, Hartley, Horton Kirby, Longfield, Lullingstone, Ridley, Southfleet, Stone, Swanscombe, Sutton at Hone and Kingsdown

The Hundred of Dartford and Wilmington did not exist at the time of the Norman Conquest, and the parishes of Dartford and Wilmington were accounted as part of Axstane in Domesday Book.

The importance of the hundred courts declined from the 17th century, and most of their powers were extinguished with the establishment of county courts in 1867. In 1894 the Hundred was succeeded by Dartford Rural District Council which was then created out of the same parishes, with the addition of Wilmington and Crayford.

*A hundred was the equivalent of a Borough Council being a tier of local government between a village and a shire.

Thanks for this Ian. SB

Speaker's Report

Our Chairman's Summer Lunch is on 25th July and we have a very special speaker. Alan Haines is an entertainer and his show is "The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show". Tickets for the event must be purchased before the day.

Our speaker on 29th August is Tom Hicks and his subject is "Technology in Sport".

Lunch will be Chicken Breast with leek and wild mushrooms or Fish and Chips.

Andrew

Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the Membership Secretary, Ed Holbrook on 01322 863130 or e-mail:

Ed.holbrook@icloud.com

Your news item or joke could have been printed here.

Please let me have something for the next Newsletter.

Steve